

(12) United States Patent Heaton, II et al.

(54) RETRACTOR SYSTEMS WITH CLOSED LOOP CONTROL

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 2084 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-

claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: 12/365,716

(22) Filed: Feb. 4, 2009

(51) **Int. Cl.** A61B 1/32 (2006.01)A61B 17/02 (2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl. CPC .. A61B 17/0206 (2013.01); A61B 2017/0256

(58) Field of Classification Search

CPC ... A61B 17/0206; A61B 17/02; A61B 17/025; A61B 17/0218; A61B 17/0231; A61B 17/0293; A61B 1/32; A61B 2017/0212; A61B 2017/0225; A61B 2017/0237; A61B 2017/0243; A61B 2017/025; A61B 2017/0256; A61B 2017/0262; A61B 2017/0268; A61B 2017/0275; A61B 2017/0281; A61B 2017/0287; A61B 5/1455; A61B 5/14551; A61B 5/14552; A61B 5/14553; A61B 5/14555; A61B 5/14556; A61B 5/14557; A61B 5/14558; A61B 5/1459; A61B 5/1464

See application file for complete search history.

(45) Date of Patent:

*May 2, 2017

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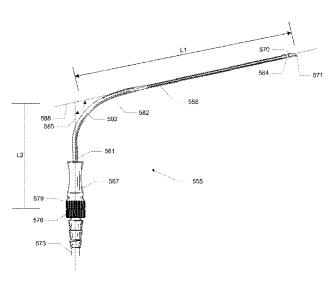
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(57)ABSTRACT

A retractor system with a closed loop control includes a retractor having one or more sensors, which measure parameters associated with a retracted tissue. The system further includes a positioning mechanism connected to the retractor and a controller which receives feedback signals from the sensors. Based on the feedback signals from the sensors, the retractor is actuated by the positioning mechanism so that the tissue can be retracted while maintaining the parameters associated with the retracted tissue above a threshold level or within a desired range. Another retractor system includes a retractor with a force sensor and at least one additional sensor, which can be used without a closed loop control arrangement.

27 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



(2013.01)